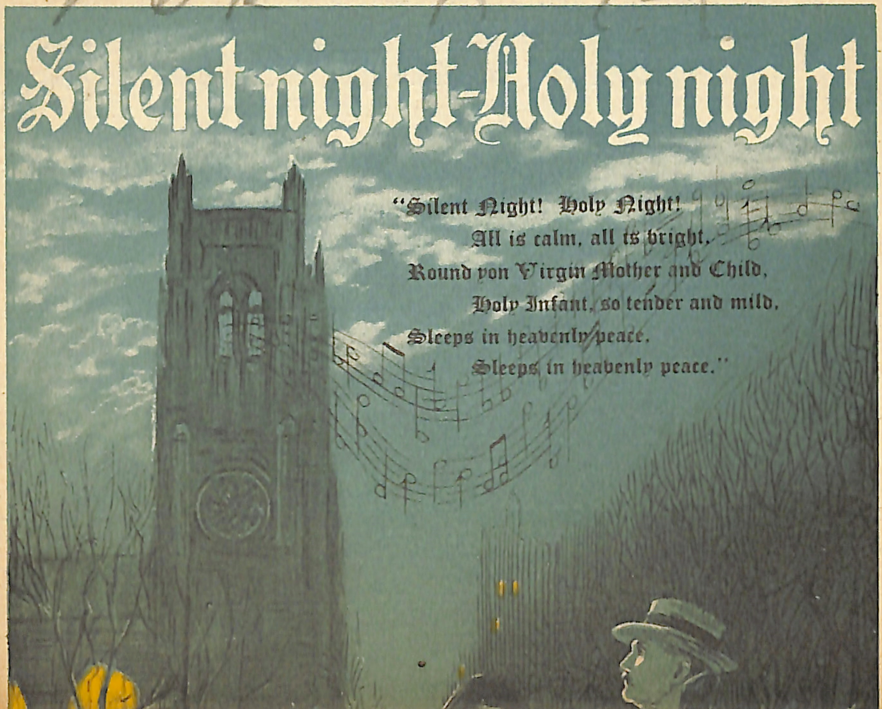
Silent night-Holy night



Ephes.3:18,19 What is the length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge.

INTRO. What is the biggest thing on which the human mind can center its attention? What, above all else gives one the most overwhelming sense of the illimitable?
Time?
Space?
Microscopic world? Molecule: atom: eon:

Atom—made up of proton and electron.
Hydrogen atom
one proton
one electron.
Revolving around line earth around sun.
Diameter, one five thousand billienth of an inch.

Human need?
Human sin?
Bigger than all of these, extending beyond them all is the immimitable love of God.
The biggest thing you and I will ever know is the love of God as it is expressed to us in Jesus Christ.

I. The HEIGHT.
Measured by the degree of purity.
The height of a diamond measured the same way- by its purity.
Love can be adulterated and deteriorated. So much of human love is. Tainted with gealou or envy or lust or selfishness
"In Him is no darkness at all"
Nothing sinful, shady or questionable!
God is Light. God is Love.

Two inferences-
1. The force of love depends upon its height
Like the force of waterfall.
"And I saw ariver of water of life, clear as crystal proceeding from the great white throne".
Source in the heights of eternal holiness.

2. Like water, Love can lift only to its own level.
The love of God in Christ lifts us up to heavenly places. "Oh Love of God most high!"

II. Let us gaze into the depths of God's love as shown in Christ.

A few scripture passages will help us understand.

"The high and lofty one whose name is holy".

"He is gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner."

"Neither do I condemn thee; go and sin no more".

Only the really lofty can reach far down to the deeps The arm- far up, also far down.

A low love has no depth of service

The pharasee had no height to his love, and so he had no depth.

"I thank thee I am not as other men are"

"He eatbth and drinketh with publicans and sinners."

God's love is deeper than humas sorrow.

Sunbeams shine on the filthiest sewage, but r remain pure sunbeams. So does God's love.

God's love deeper than death.

"And entering into the sepulchre, then say an angel"

"O Death, where is thy sting?, etc."

God's love deeper than sin.

"I f I make my bed in hell, lo, thou art there."

" Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound."

"He bore our sin".

What a gospel! God's love can reach below all human iniquity and lift up the soul dead in s sin.

III. Let us gaze into its breadth.

Again, it is the height that determines ~~its~~ breadth.

How we humans have tried to limit the love of God. Our racial, national. social boundaries.

Orphans- without mother or father.

No man is orphaned from God's heart of love.

He may wander from God, but His heavenly Father is ever with him, ready to restor

IV. And what of its length? It cannot be measured!

"Greater love, etc."

"Becoming obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

"Goeth after that which is lost until he find it."
As long as eternal life, endless and forever.
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A man had a phosphorescent match safe. At nite he proudly showed it to his friends, but, alas, it did not glow. On the inside cover he found directions, "If you wish me to shine, keep me in the sunlight." He did and it glowed with phosphorescent light.
"Keep yourselves in the love of God."

"Lord Tennyson, what do you think of Christ?", asked a friend who had heard that Tennyson was a Unitarian. Stooping down and caressing a flower, the Poet answered impressively, "What the sunshine is to that flower, Jesus Christ is to my soul."